postal circles also to downgrade or dis-coninue certain post offices.

(d) Usually when there is a proposal to downgrade or discontinue a post office, concerned member$_s$ of the public and other interested parties do take up the matter with the concerned postal au'ho-rities. Such representations are received from Kerala and Tamil Nadu Circles also. However, since these decisions are normally 'aken by the field formations (Postal Circles, Postal regions etc,) such representations sent to the appropriate ! authorities for careful consideration before final decisions are taken.

(c) The Department does take special ,! care to see that postal facilities are provided in backward areas to an adequate extent. However, th$_e$ number and status of post offices to be maintained to meet this objective is a matter of establishment detail/norms »«J is $_s$ubject to review from time to time according to the 'iandard procedures.

Shortage of industrial alcohol

1207. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are allowing import of industrial alcohol in view of the shortage of this commodity;

(b) if so. what is the quantity and value of the import made so far this year;

(c) whether as reported in the Hindu stan Times of 9th July, 1986, it is also a fact that the major alcohol producing distilleries in Uttar Pradesh are either ly ing closed or utilising less than 25 per cent of their capacity because their storage tanks ar$_e$ already full of alcohol;

(d) wnefber it is also a fact that the distillarii* in Uttar Pradesh ar» not able > to supply alcohol to other S'ates due to th$_e$ high increase in the export pass fee imposed by the State Government and other restrictions placed On its supply to other States; and

(e) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by the Central Government to persuade the Utta$_r$ Pradesh Government to allow export of alcohol to other States wihout such hinderance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM): (a) and (b) About 900 lakh. li'res of alcohol (denatured) has been permitted to actual users (industrial) for duty free import during February, 1985 to June, 1986. The informaMon of quantities actually imported and value thereof is not readily available.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from U.P. Government, as against the total allocated quantity of 350 lakh litres so far for the year (Dec., 1985— Nov., 1986) the distilleries in U.P: supplied 36.223 lakh litres of alcohol to other States during the period from 1st December, 1985 to 31st May, 1986.

(e) In order to speed up the lifting of alcohol the Government of U.P. has been requested to reduce the duties.

Setting up of chemical factories

1208. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a maority of chemical factories have ben set up near the big cities and densely populated areas;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to get these factories shifted to som$_e$ other safer places in view of frequent incidents of leakage of poisonous gas in the past;

(c) what are the names of the factories which are proposed to be shifted from Delhi and to which are the places these factories are likely to be shifted to; and